

BOROUGH OF



COLCHESTER.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

W. F. CORFIELD,

M.D., B.S., London ; M.R.C.S., Eng. ; L.R.C.P., Lond. ;

D.P.H., Cambridge ;

Medical Officer of Health ; School Medical Officer ;

Medical Superintendent of the Isolation Hospital and Sanatorium ;

Tuberculosis Officer and Public Analyst ;

1928.



Colchester :

WILKS & SON, TRINITY STREET.

BOROUGH OF



COLCHESTER.

BOROUGH & PORT HEALTH COMMITTEE,
1928-29.

THE WORSHIPFUL THE MAYOR
COUNCILLOR J. RUSSELL.

Chairman :

ALDERMAN R. B. BEARD, J.P.

Deputy-Chairman :

COUNCILLOR P. A. SANDERS, O.B.E., J.P., C.C.

Councillors :

J. G. ANDERSON,

MRS. BENSUSAN-BUTT, M.D.

DAME CATHERINE HUNT,
D.B.E., J.P.

G. W. B. HAZELL,

R. FENN,

A. CROWTHER.

Maternity and Child Welfare Committee :

The Health Committee with the addition of
MRS. FELL AND MRS. TOWNSEND.

THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT, 1928.

Medical Officer of Health, etc. :

W. F. CORFIELD, M.D., B.S. (Lond.), D.P.H. (Camb.).

Assistant Medical Officer of Health, etc. :

R. W. CUSHING, M.A., M.B., B.Ch. (Oxon).

Sanitary Inspectors :

A. FISHER, C.R.S.I., Cert. Meat Insp.

L. BROOK, A.R.S.I., Cert. Meat Insp.

Health Nurses :

MISS L. PEARSON, C.M.B.

MISS A. W. SASSE.

MISS E. R. SMITH, S.R.N., C.M.B.

Clerks :

R. D. SARGEANT.

MISS M. KITTLE.

D. H. BAILEY.

O. R. WARNER.

Laboratory Assistant :

R. D. SARGEANT.

Disinfectors :

G. T. HEWES.

Matron of the Borough Isolation Hospital and Sanatorium :

MISS B. THORNHILL.

PART-TIME SPECIALISTS :

Orthopædic Surgeon :

B. WHITCHURCH HOWELL, F.R.C.S. (Eng.).

X-Ray Specialist :

J. ORD PENDER SMITH, M.B., Ch.B. (Ed.), D.M.R.E. (Camb.).

Medical Officer—Ante-Natal Clinic :

GRACE G. GRIFFITH, M.R.C.S. (Eng.), L.R.C.P. (Lond.).

Obstetric Consultant :

J. GUTCH, M.D.

HEALTH OFFICES,

TRINITY STREET,

10th May, 1929.

MR. MAYOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour of presenting to you my Annual Report upon the Health and Sanitary Circumstances of the Borough for the year 1928.

The Registrar-General has estimated a fall in the population of the Borough since the previous year. As he estimated a large rise in 1926, it is difficult to understand how in 1928 he arrives at a small fall. In reply to an enquiry of mine the Assistant Registrar-General writes —“ Thus each annual process of estimation involves, in a sense, a fresh review of the whole period which has elapsed since the previous census, advantage being taken of any new material which has come to light to promote the progressive correction of the figures.” It would be interesting to know what new material came to light to cause the changes in the population figures indicated above.

The General Death Rate is very low, and the Infantile Mortality Rate nearly as low as it has ever been. The Cancer Death Rate has again increased.

The Ante-natal Clinic has been started and has had a successful year. As it becomes better appreciated it should prove a boon to expectant mothers. The removal of cases of Puerperal Fever to the Isolation Hospital should help also in the crusade to reduce Maternal Mortality.

The new Infant Clinic at Lexden is of definite help to certain mothers, but the attendance is not so good as was expected. The demand for it was great before it was established, and it is strange that the number of Infants brought to it has not been greater.

My thanks are herewith accorded to the Chairman and members of the Health and Infant Welfare Committee for their continued support and the interest they take in the work of the Department. I also wish to thank the members of the Health Department Staff and the Matron, Sisters and Nurses of the Isolation Hospital for their continued loyal assistance.

I am, Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

W. F. CORFIELD,

Medical Officer of Health, etc.

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Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1928.

*An "Ordinary Report" as defined in para. 3 of Circular 939 of
the Ministry of Health.*

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Area (acres)	..	..	..	..	11,333
Population (1928 R.G. estimate)	{ For Birth Rate				48,630
	{ „ Death „				44,880
„ (Census, 1921)	..	..	..	..	43,393
Number of Inhabited Houses (1921)	..	..	..	..	9,053
Number of Families or Separate Occupiers (1921)	..	..	..	..	9,380
Rateable Value	..	..	..	..	£214,630
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	..	..	..	..	£790

The Annual Report for 1928 is to be an "Ordinary Report," that is to say, in the words of Circular 939, "a Report of a more simple character than the full Survey Report which the Medical Officer of Health was asked to prepare for 1925."

Extracts from Vital Statistics of the Year.

			1927	1928
Birth Rate	..	..	15.58	15.84
„ „ England and Wales	..	..	16.7	16.7
Death Rate	..	..	11.24	10.47
„ „ England and Wales	..	..	12.3	11.7
Infantile Mortality Rate	..	..	46.05	41.6
„ „ „ England and Wales			69.0	65.0
Pulmonary Tuberculosis Death Rate	..	..	0.62	0.65
Other Tubercular Diseases	..	..	0.13	0.05
Cancer Death Rate	..	..	1.46	1.8

Births		Total	Male	Female	Infantile Deaths.
770	Legitimate	726	353	373	29
	Illegitimate	44	25	19	3

Total Deaths, 470. Male, 231. Female, 239.

Number of Women dying in, or in consequence of, Child-Birth—

From Sepsis, 1. From Other Causes, 1.

Legitimate Infantile Mortality Rate	..	..	40.0
Illegitimate „ „ „	..	..	68.2
Deaths from Measles (all ages) ..	..	..	1
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages)	..	..	1
„ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	..	..	—

Deaths of Colchester Residents of 70 years and over.

70 and under 80	80 and under 90	90 and over	Total over 70
120	54	7	181

The ages of persons of 90 and over were—2 of 91, 1 of 92, 2 of 94, 1 of 96, and 1 of 97; 4 of these 7 were women.

Garrison and Institutional Populations.

Average Daily Strength of the Garrison	..	3,991
Officers, 172.	Women, 364.	
Other Ranks, 2,881.	Children, 577.	
Mental Hospitals Population	.. ..	3,463
Severalls Mental Hospital (Inmates and Resident Staff) ..	..	2,066
		Increase or Decrease. + 131
Royal Eastern Counties Institution	1,397	+ 44

Small changes have occurred in all the above figures, but none worthy of particular mention.

The Causes of Death in Infants and Children under 5 years, 1928.

Cause of Death	Under 1 year	1—2 years	2—5 years	TOTALS
Whooping Cough ... ..	...	...	1	1
Heart Disease	2	...	...	2
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	1	...	...	1
Bronchitis	1	2	...	3
Pneumonia	3	3	3	9
Appendicitis ... ..	...	...	1	1
Congenital Debility and Premature Birth	18	...	...	18
Other Defined Diseases	6	1	1	8
Violent Deaths	1	...	1	2
Totals... ..	32	6	7	45

The number of deaths of children under 5 years of age has fallen from 62 in 1927 to 44 in 1928. During the past 5 years the figures have been—

1924	1925	1926	1927	1928
62	57	70	62	44

There has been no large saving of infant life from any particular disease, and the improvement should be ascribed to the greater care taken of child life and particularly to the work carried out by the Infant Welfare Committee. Up to 5 years of age children are welcomed at the Infant Welfare Clinics, and up to this age they are visited by the Health Nurses. Through the District Nursing Association help is given in nursing them when they are ill. Also the fact that severe cases of Whooping Cough and Measles under 9 years of age are now admitted to the Isolation Hospital has very probably helped in saving some lives.

Out of the 45 deaths it will be noted that 18 were due to "Congenital Debility and Premature Birth." Ante-natal work

should help to reduce this figure, and although the attendances at the Ante-natal Clinic are many too few, it is to be hoped that as the value of this clinic is better realized, the attendances will improve.

Causes of Death in Colchester, 1928.

(Civilians only)

Causes	Males	Females	TOTALS
Enteric Fever	2	2	4
Small-pox ... ..	...	...	...
Measles ... ..	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever ... ..	...	...	...
Whooping Cough ... ..	...	1	1
Diphtheria ... ..	...	1	1
Influenza	4	1	5
Encephalitis Lethargica ... ..	...	1	1
Meningococcal Meningitis ... ..	...	...	...
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ...	21	8	29
Other Tuberculous Diseases	2	...	2
Cancer, Malignant Disease	36	44	80
Rheumatic Fever	2	1	3
Diabetes	1	2	3
Cerebral Haemorrhage, &c.	13	18	31
Heart Disease	33	43	76
Arterio-sclerosis	12	17	29
Bronchitis	7	6	13
Pneumonia (all forms)	7	13	20
Other Respiratory Diseases	1	...	1
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	8	1	9
Diarrhoea, &c. (under 2 years) ... ..	...	...	...
Appendicitis and Typhlitis	2	2	4
Cirrhosis of Liver ... ..	...	...	...
Acute and Chronic Nephritis	12	11	23
Puerperal Sepsis ... ..	...	1	1
Other Accidents and Diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition ... ..	...	1	1
Congenital Debility and Malformation, Premature Birth	10	8	18
Suicide	4	4	8
Other deaths from Violence	12	3	15
Other Defined Diseases	41	49	90
Causes Ill-defined or Unknown	1	1	2
Totals	231	239	470

The total number of deaths has fallen, but increases have occurred from the following diseases—Cancer from 66 to 80; Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum from 4 to 9; Acute and Chronic Nephritis from 14 to 23; Deaths from Violence (not Suicide) from 9 to 15. On the other hand diminutions occurred in—Influenza from 28 to 5; Heart Disease from 85 to 76; Bronchitis from 29 to 13; Pneumonia from 28 to 20.

The actual decrease in the total number of deaths was 38. Unfortunately, the number of deaths from Cancer continues to increase. During the past five years the figures have been—

1924	1925	1926	1927	1928
61	57	64	66	80

There appeared some ground for hope that the number was becoming stationary at about 60, but now each year the figure increases, and for 1928 the increase has been unusually great. Such a figure for one year may be quite exceptional, but an exceptional drop in the number would be much more welcome than a rather larger increase.

Birth Rate, Death Rate, and Analysis of Mortality during the year 1928.

	Birth Rate per 1000 Total Population.	Annual Death Rate per 1000 Population.								Rate per 1000 Births.	
		All Causes.	Enteric Fever.	Small-pox.	Measles.	Scarlet Fever.	Whooping Cough.	Diphtheria.	Influenza.	Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 yrs.	Total Deaths under 1 year.
England and Wales	16.7	11.7	0.01	0.00	0.11	0.01	0.01	0.06	0.19	7.0	65
107 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London	16.9	11.6	0.01	0.00	0.15	0.02	0.09	0.09	0.17	9.6	70
156 Smaller Towns	16.6	10.6	0.01	0.00	0.08	0.01	0.06	0.08	0.21	4.8	60
London	15.9	11.6	0.01	0.00	0.30	0.02	0.09	0.09	0.13	10.2	67
Colchester Borough	15.8	10.5	0.09	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.02	0.11	0.0	41

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

The various *Hospitals and similar Institutions* remain the same as those mentioned in the Survey Report of 1925.

Ambulance facilities have been re-arranged in that the Borough Council have accepted responsibility for the Motor Ambulance that was looked after by the local division of the Red Cross. The Ambulance was the property of Mr. Andrews of Crouch Street, Colchester. He very generously presented it to the Borough Council on condition that they would continue the valuable work that he had carried on for many years in Colchester.

This Ambulance is for the conveyance of all accident and non-infectious cases, and is kept at Williams' Garage, Crouch Street.

The Ambulance of the Isolation Hospital for Infectious cases is kept at that Hospital.

Clinics and Treatment Centres.

Clinic or Centre.	Address.	Accommodation.	Provided by
Maternity and Child Welfare Centres	(1) Health Offices, Trinity Street (2) Wimpole Road (3) London Road, Lexden	Waiting Room, Consultation Room, Nurses' Room	Colechester Borough Council.
Ante-natal Clinic	Health Offices, Trinity Street	Waiting Room, Nurses' Room, Consultation Room	Colechester Borough Council.
School Clinics—Medical, Dental, Ophthalmic and Orthopædic	Health and Education Offices, Trinity Street	Waiting Room, Clerk's Room. Clinic	Colechester Borough Council.
Tuberculosis Dispensary	12 Trinity Street	Waiting Room, Nurses' Room and 2 Dressing Rooms, Consultation Room	Essex County Council.
Venereal Diseases Treatment Centre	Essex County Hospital	Waiting Room, Consultation Room, and Two Wards of four beds each	Essex County Council.
Treatment of School Children for Enlarged Tonsils and Adenoids, Ringworm by X-Rays and Special Eye Cases	Essex County Hospital	Usual Hospital Accommodation for such cases	Colechester Borough Council.

Clinics. A new Clinic was started on 15th March, 1928. This was the Ante-natal Clinic. An arrangement was made by the Borough Council with Dr. Grace Griffith, of Bures, to attend at the Colchester Health Offices upon the first and third Thursdays of every month to see and, if necessary, examine women expecting the birth of a child. A nurse from the District Nursing Home is always in attendance, and midwives are particularly requested to come to the Clinic with their patients.

A third Infant Welfare Clinic was opened on October 1st. This is situate at Lexden, and is attended upon the 1st and 3rd Mondays by the Assistant Medical Officer of Health, and one of the Health Nurses.

It was hoped that the Maternity Home for Colchester, that has been so long in prospect, would have been an accomplished fact before the end of 1928. Unfortunately the Ministry of Health did

not approve two houses that were suggested for conversion to a Home, nor did they consider suitable other accommodation proposed. It appears now likely that the original proposal to make use of a Ward in the Infirmary will be the solution of the problem. Under the new Poor Law Authority no doubt many changes will be made, and this might well be one of them. It would be premature to do more than indicate this as a useful line for consideration and discussion.

Public Health Officers.

The appointment of Dr. Grace G. Griffith as part-time Medical Officer to the Ante-natal Clinic, and of Dr. Gutch of Ipswich, as Consulting Obstetrician, adds two Officers to the Health Department's part-time staff.

At the end of 1927 Miss B. Thornhill was appointed Matron to the Borough Isolation Hospital and Sanatorium.

Professional Nursing in the Home.

No change has occurred since the Survey Report of 1925. It should, however, be noted that the arrangement with the District Nursing Association for the care of sick children under 5 years of age is being increasingly made use of year by year.

Midwives.

A Grant of £20 per annum is paid by the Borough Council to the District Nursing Association, to assist it in giving attention to poor women during child-birth.

There are 13 midwives practising in Colchester.

Laboratory Work.

Specimens Examined.	Results.		TOTAL.
	Positive.	Negative or Normal.	1928.
Swabs for Diphtheria B.	15	270	285
Sputum for Tubercle B.	21	105	126
Blood for Typhoid and Paratyphoid Reaction... ..	1	4	5
Pus for Gonococcus	4	9	13
Hair for Ringworm	3	5	8
Urine Examinations (various)	1	5	6
Spinal Fluid for Meningococcus ... ..	..	4	4
Milk for Tubercle B. ... ..	..	2	2
Milk for Pus.	2	..	2
Pleuritic Serum for Tubercle B. ... ..	..	1	1
Pleuritic Serum for Pneumococcus ... ..	..	1	1
Town Water Supply (Spring Supply	3	..	6
Analysis ... (Artesian Well	3	..	
Other Water Supply Analysis ... ..	..	..	8
Total Specimens Examined ... ..	..	..	467

Legislation in Force.

There has been no change in the Adoptive Acts, Local Acts, Bye-laws and Regulations in the Borough since 1926.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

Visits paid to Infants by the Health Nurses during the year.

Under 1 month	1—3 months	3—6 months	6—12 months	1—2 years	2—5 years	Total Visits
844	1,088	1,346	2,189	2,928	4,447	12,842

Visits to Illegitimate Children	..	..	406
Long Tube Bottles being used	..	..	nil
Occasions where Infants were sleeping with their parents	..	..	25
Still Birth enquiries	..	..	5

Notification of Births Act.

Children born alive and notified in accordance with the Act	..	..	..	755
Children born alive and not so notified	..	..	29	
Still Births notified in accordance with the Act	..	28		
Still Births not so notified	..	..	2	
Births notified by Midwives	..	..	552	
„ „ Parents or Doctors	..	..	231	

The number of visits to Infants paid by the Health Nurses has increased by over 1,500. There is no other reason for this than the keenness of the Nurses to see that the babies in their areas are progressing satisfactorily. It speaks very well for the interest they take in the work and this is certainly one of the reasons for the low Infantile Mortality Rate in Colchester.

Nursing of Sick Children of under 5 years.

The District Nursing Association continues to assist the Department by supplying a Nurse, on demand, to look after ailing children. During 1928 17 children were nursed in this way and 354 visits were paid, at the request of the Medical Officer of Health, by Nurses of the Association to these children. In one of these cases the parents paid for the services of the Nurse as they were able and willing to do so.

The children were suffering from the following diseases—Pneumonia (9), Measles (3), Septic Navel (1), Erysipelas (1) Bronchitis and Marasmus (1), Icterus Neonatorum (1), Ophthalmia (1).

It will be seen that all of these diseases were serious and without skilled nursing many would undoubtedly have died. In fact only four deaths occurred, these being two children with Pneumonia and the child with Bronchitis and Marasmus and that with Icterus Neonatorum. Two of the other cases were sent to the Essex County Hospital and they and all the others made good recoveries.

The Infant Clinic.

	1927	1928
Number of new babies brought to the Clinic:		
Trinity Street 203, Wimpole Road 129, Lexden 24	231	356
Number of Attendances made: Trinity Street 1,601, Wimpole Road 1,357, Lexden 110 ..	1,879	3,068
Dried Milk supplied free or at reduced prices lbs.	255	207
„ „ „ at full special price lbs.	1,157	1,590
Meat Extract supplied at full special price in 10-oz. cartons	938	726
Flannel supplied at a special price yds.	62	47
Tooth Brushes	50	38
Wool supplied at a special price .. lbs.	7 $\frac{1}{8}$	12 $\frac{5}{8}$
Baby Garments made up at special prices ..	—	—
Paper Patterns for Baby Clothing given free ..	—	1
Malt and Cod Liver Oil .. lbs.	98	221
Cod Liver Oil and Hypophosphites 4-oz. bottles	222	530
Parish's Food 4-oz. bottles	112	92
Lactagol packets	81	47
Baby Feeding Bottles	7	8
Ostelin Cream 4-oz. bottles	28	21

The attendances at all the Clinics have improved to a remarkable extent. Trinity Street figures have increased by 433 in spite of the fact that the Lexden Clinic must have taken some of the mothers who would otherwise have attended at Trinity Street. Wimpole Road attendances have improved to the extent of 646, nearly double the figure for the previous year. Lexden Clinic was only opened on October 1st, 1928, and meets upon the 1st and 3rd

Mondays each month, so 110 attendances for the first six meetings of a new Clinic is very good.

The amount of Dried Milk supplied at full price has naturally gone up with the increased attendance, though the amount supplied free or at a reduced price is less. Less of the other foods and articles have been supplied, except Cod Liver Oil and the demand for this has been much greater.

Milk (Mothers and Children) Order, 1919.

	1924.	1925.	1926.	1927.	1928.
Number of families supplied with free fresh milk ..	71	61	78	87	89
Number of pints supplied ..	6,167	5,507	6,969	10,252	7,799

In 1927 an unusually large amount of free fresh milk was supplied to mothers and children. This year (1928) the figure is lower and taken in conjunction with the fall in the amount of free Dried Milk supplied may be considered about normal.

The new Regulation of the Ministry of Health under which families in receipt of Poor Law Relief were not to receive free milk from the Borough Council but to be referred to the Guardians, has, upon the whole, worked satisfactorily. It has not made any great difference in Colchester, as, since May when the Regulation came into force, it was found necessary to refer only 6 cases to the Guardians.

Ante-natal Clinic.

	1928
Number of times the Clinic was held ..	19
New Patients	71
Number of Attendances ..	150
Average number of cases per Clinic ..	8

These figures for the first nine months of a new Ante-natal Clinic are not unsatisfactory. There is naturally a certain amount of doubt about such a Clinic among the midwives, as this is satisfied the number of patients should improve considerably. At the same time it must be realized that the examination of some of these cases takes a long time, and four new cases and six old ones will probably prove to be a good afternoon's work.

Puerperal Fever and Pyrexia.

Two cases of Puerperal Fever were notified and three deaths occurred from this condition. All were non-residents who died in the Essex County Hospital having been admitted there from other districts. Two were notified and one died before notification had taken place.

Five women were notified as suffering from Puerperal Pyrexia. One was notified from the Infirmary and the others from private houses. All of them recovered.

Dr. J. Gutch, of Ipswich, was appointed, during the year, as consultant under the Puerperal Fever and Pyrexia Notification Regulations. The assistance of the consultant was not requested for any case.

Maternal Mortality. The Medical Officer of Health has been designated as the Officer to make enquiries into such deaths in Colchester, and such enquiries as were made during the year were made by him, and particulars forwarded to the Ministry of Health. He has also carried out all investigations that appeared necessary when cases of Puerperal Fever were reported.

Arrangements have been made for the admission of cases of Puerperal Pyrexia, or Puerperal Fever, into the Borough Isolation Hospital.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

Number of Cases.	Cases			Vision Unimpaired	Vision Impaired	Total Blindness	Deaths
	Notified	Treated					
		At Home	In Hospital				
1	1	1	...	1	...	...	...

Orthopædic Clinic.

		1927	1928
Infants brought to the Clinic	..	17	24
Attendances made	..	20	32

These babies were suffering from the following conditions, either the result of Disease or Congenital Malformation :—

Condition or Disease.			No. of Cases.
Rickets	..	..	5
Flat Feet	..	..	7
Bowed Legs	..	..	2
Infantile Paralysis	..	..	2
Pigeon Toes	..	..	2
Dislocation of Hip (Congenital)		..	3
Deformed Feet or Hands	..	..	3
			<hr/>
			24

The number of Infants seen at this Clinic has again increased and many deformities are being treated before they have had time to do serious damage. It is only possible to deal adequately with some deformities at quite an early age. One of the best examples of this is Congenital Dislocation of the Hip Joint. After 3 years old it is very likely that the bone cannot be successfully replaced in its socket. Before this age there is quite a reasonable hope of a permanent cure.

It is the same with certain other conditions, and parents should be impressed with the fact that the earlier a child with a deformity is seen by a doctor the better the chance of cure. The idea that the child will stand operation or manipulation better when it is older is quite a mistake. While the bones are soft and growth only beginning, a good result, or even complete cure, is much more readily obtained than at a later date.

Three Infants were in hospital for deformities during the year. One had been admitted in December, 1927, but was not discharged until August, 1928. They were:—

C.J.—Suffering from the effects of Infantile Paralysis, aged 3 years. Admitted to Brookfield Hospital, Walthamstow, 15th December, 1927. Discharged much improved 21st August, 1928.

M.S.—Congenital Dislocation of both Hips, aged 4 years. Admitted to the Queen's Hospital, Bethnal Green, 5th January, 1928. Discharged improved 6th June, 1928. Unfortunately one joint relapsed and the bone became again dislocated and re-admission was necessary on 26th September, 1928. Re-discharged improved 6th December, 1928. It is too early yet to say how permanent the reduction of these dislocations will be.

G.M.—Congenital Deformity of Foot, age 1 year. Admitted to the Queen's Hospital, Bethnal Green, 1st March, 1928. Discharged after manipulation and plaster, 18th March, 1928. Re-admitted for operation, 21st November, 1928. Discharged untreated owing to Scarlet Fever in the ward, 24th November, 1928.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water.

The town water supply is regularly examined bacteriologically and as regularly proves satisfactory. The water from three springs near the Waterworks was analysed, but these were found contaminated, and the water was reported unfit for domestic use.

Drainage and Sewerage.

The following new Sewers have been laid during 1928 :—

Harwich Road, 15in.	..	..	330 yards
Greenstead Road, 9in.	..	..	70 „
Cambridge Road Extension, 9in.	..	..	110 „
Lexden Housing Site, 9in.	..	..	240 „
„ „ 6in.	..	..	450 „
Dilbridge Road Housing Site, 9in.	..	..	120 „
„ 6in.	..	..	500 „

Closet Accommodation and Wells.

Type of Closet.	1926	1927	1928
Privy ..	47	44	41
Pail Closets ..	125	126	126
Cess-pools ..	113	132	148
Wells ..	158	165	173

It is to be regretted that in spite of the extensions to the sewers, cesspools have to be used in increasing numbers each year. It is the result of the more outlying parts of the Borough being built upon. Similarly the number of wells is increasing, because houses are being built beyond the radius of the water mains. The fact should not be lost sight of that small private wells and cesspools are not nearly so hygienic as a town sewerage scheme and main water supply, particularly when such wells and cesspools are crowded together in a small area.

The conversion of hand-flushed closets into closets supplied with water from the mains has been continued wherever such closets have been found to be insufficient.

Scavenging.

No changes have occurred in the methods of collection and disposal of refuse, but the whole system has been under review and certain improvements are under consideration.

Year.	Ash-pits Abolished.	Ash-bins Provided.
1926	2	177
1927	19	141
1928	9	172

Old ash-pits are gradually being abolished and sanitary ash-bins are coming into universal use. This is one of those small improvements that when carried out by everyone in a town makes a definite difference to the healthiness of the atmosphere of that town.

Sanitary Inspection.

General Summary of Work carried out by Sanitary Inspector's Department under Public Health Acts, Housing Acts, Bye-laws, etc.

Complaints received	..	..	..	428
Defects found ..	..	..	..	4,301
Defects remedied	..	..	..	3,578
Factories and Workshops inspected	..	..	..	95
Homeworkers' Premises inspected	..	..	..	209
Informal Notices served	..	..	..	449
Statutory Notices served	..	..	..	216

Housing.

Floors repaired—bedroom 84, others 145	..	..	229
Walls, internal, repaired—skirting boards 3, plaster 202, W.P. cement plaster 38, match-boardings 2, wall-paper removed 6	..	..	251
„ external, repaired—plaster 28, brickwork 41, weather-boards 12, repointed 107, tarred 4, air-bricks put in, 4	..	..	196
Ceilings—plaster repaired ..	..	..	154
Doors—provided 4, new sills 27, weather-boards 21, repaired 40, steps repaired 6, frames repaired 6	..	..	104
Windows—made to open 33, provided 34, cords, etc., provided 37, frames repaired 16, other repairs 320	..	..	440
Ovens—repaired or renewed	..	..	12

Fire-grates—repaired or renewed 64, surrounds repaired 9	73
Stairs—hand rails provided 105, treads repaired 54, balusters repaired 2	161
Rooms—cleansed and re-decorated	21
Roofs repaired	179
Rain-water Pipes—guttering repaired 66, down-pipes repaired 32, down-pipes lengthened 14, down-pipes disconnected 5, guttering freed from obstruction 73	360
Chimneys—repaired 71, pots renewed 5	76
Cupboards—ventilated 4, paved 9	13
Wash-houses—repaired 9, rebuilt 1, coppers provided 15, coppers repaired 34, furnaces repaired 20, floors repaired 17	96
Houses—demolished 8, drained to sewer 2, damp-proof course inserted 2, concrete plinth to walls 49	61
Yards and Passages—paved 22, paving repaired 74, approaches to W.C.'s paved 23	119
Sinks—provided 114, repaired 7	121

Water Supply.

New water taps provided	103
„ service put in	113
Service pipes repaired or renewed	3
Defects reported to Water Supply Department	19

Drainage.

Drains—provided 79, repaired 17, gullies provided 83, grids to gullies 4, ventilated 2, ventilating shafts repaired 2, fresh-air inlets provided 3, obstructions removed 62, insanitary traps abolished 3, gullies cleaned 9	264
Inspection Chambers—provided 3, new covers 4, intercepting trap provided 1	8
Water Closets—provided 5, re-built 1, pans and traps renewed 14, flushing apparatus provided 5, flushing apparatus repaired 35, obstructions removed 8, water supply pipes repaired 4, other repairs 59	131

<i>Privies</i> —abolished 3, pail closets abolished 1, new pails provided 3, cesspools emptied 8	15
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Other Sanitary Work.

Offensive accumulations removed	7
Dead Animals removed from public places and buried			21
Overcrowding Nuisances abated or recommendations for Council House	..	..	30
Pig Keeping Nuisances abated	..	..	3
Smoke Nuisances abated	..	..	1
Other Nuisances abated	..	..	10
Matters reported to Borough Surveyor's Department			24
Ashbins provided	..	..	172
Insanitary Ashpits abolished	..	..	9
Vans inspected	..	..	29
Common Lodging House inspections	..	..	7
Re-visits in connection with Sanitary Notices	3336

Milk and Dairies Order.

Requirements complied with	38
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Meat Regulations and Slaughter House Byelaws.

Requirements complied with	2
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Offensive Trade Byelaws.

Requirements complied with	6
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Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act.

Inspections	86
Advice as to destruction given	29
Letters to Occupiers of premises	..	..	..	14
Premises freed	..	..	..	23
Complaints received	..	..	..	24

The above tables are so large that it is unlikely that they receive from everyone reading this Report the detailed examination that they deserve. When examined carefully, a natural fear may be felt that landlords are very careless, not only of their tenants' health but also of their own property. At first sight it may also appear as though the Sanitary Inspectors spent a good deal of time looking out for trifles that were of little importance.

There are two answers to these criticisms. No one would care to live with any of the so-called trifles as a permanent condition of his home. Many landlords realise that the regular inspections of the Sanitary Inspectors ensure their property being kept up to the

standard required by the Ministry of Health, and the structure and building thereby preserved.

In carrying out the inspections, the recommendations of the Manual of the Ministry of Health are closely followed.

*Premises and Occupations controlled by Bye-laws and Regulations.
Offensive Trades.*

	Number.	Inspections.
Fish Frier	20	33
Gut Scraper	1	9
Tallow Melter	3	72
Rag, Bone and Skin Dealer	5	9
Bone Boiler	1	10
Total	30	133
Horse Slaughterer	1	8

There is one Fish-frier less in the above list than last year. The other trades remain the same.

A large number of visits were paid to the Tallow Melter's premises that had been causing frequent complaints in 1927. The new machinery is a great improvement upon the old, and little trouble arises from the offensive smell always generated by this trade.

Common Lodging Houses.

The only one in the Borough has been regularly inspected, and has been found well-kept and satisfactorily conducted.

Other Sanitary Conditions requiring Notice.

Schools. All the Schools in the Borough, except one of the Public Elementary Schools, are supplied with water from the Town Supply. St. John's School, Ipswich Road, is supplied with well-water.

The Schools are regularly visited by the Health and School Nurses, and constantly by the Assistant Medical Officer of Health, who is also the Assistant School Medical Officer. Should Infectious Disease occur in a School careful enquiries are made, the School is visited, and ailing children are "followed-up" at their homes.

A system of Exclusion from Day School and Sunday School of

children suffering from an Infectious Disease, and other children in the same house, is in force throughout the Borough.

Rag Flock Acts, 1911 and 1928. There are no premises in the district upon which Rag Flock is manufactured, used or sold.

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

1.—*Inspection of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.*

Premises (1)	Number of		
	Inspections (2)	Written Notices (3)	Prosecutions (4)
Factories (Including Factory Laundries)	55	7	...
Workshops (Including Workshop Laundries)	40	2	...
Workplaces (Other than Outworkers' premises) ... ..	...	...	...
Total	95	9	...

2.—*Defects found in Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.*

Particulars (1)	Number of Defects			Number of Prosecutions (5)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector (4)	
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts* :—</i>				
Want of cleanliness ...	6	7	...	...
Want of ventilation ...	...	...	...	...
Overcrowding ...	...	...	...	...
Want of drainage of floors ...	...	...	...	...
Other nuisances... ..	2	2	...	...
<i>Sanitary accommodation—</i>				
Insufficient ... ..	...	...	...	...
Unsuitable or defective	1	1	...	...
Not separate for sexes ...	...	...	...	...
<i>Offences under the Factory and Workshop Acts :—</i>				
Illegal occupation of underground bakehouse (s. 101)	...	...	...	...
Other offences (Excluding offences relating to outwork and offences under the sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers Order, 1921). ...	...	...	...	...
Total	9	10	...	...

* Including those specified in sections 2, 3, 7 and 8 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, as remediable under the Public Health Acts.

Outwork in Unwholesome Premises, Section 108.

Nature of Work.	Instances.	Notices served.	Prosecutions.
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Wearing Apparel—Making, &c. ...	1	1	...
Total	1	1	...

Home Work.

Nature of Work.	Outworkers' Lists. Section 107.						Notices served on Occupiers as to keeping or sending Lists.
	Lists received from Employers twice a year.			Lists received from Employers once a year.			
	Lists.	Outworkers.		Lists.	Outworkers.		
		Contractors.	Workmen.		Contractors.	Workmen.	
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
Wearing Apparel Making, etc. . .	32	—	966	3	—	8	4
Furniture and Upholstery ..	4	—	8	—	—	—	—
Sack Making ..	2	—	2	—	—	—	—
Paper Receptacle Making ..	2	—	4	—	—	—	—
Total	40	—	980	3	—	8	4

The usual procedure of transferring particulars of Outworkers resident in other districts to those districts has been continued. Similarly, particulars have been received from other districts of Outworkers in those districts living in Colchester.

During the year 21 lists, containing 450 names, were transferred from Colchester, and 8 lists were received from other districts.

HOUSING.

Statistics for the Year 1928.

Number of New Houses erected during the year:—

- | | |
|--|-----|
| (a) Total (including numbers given under [b]) .. | 196 |
| (b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts : | |
| (i.) By the Local Authority .. | 90 |
| (ii.) By other bodies or persons .. | 68 |

I.—*Unfit Dwelling-Houses.*

Inspection :—

(1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	791
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Consolidated Regulations, 1925)	132
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	10
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	702

II.—*Remedy of Defects without Service of Formal Notices.*

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	489
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III.—*Action under Statutory Powers.*

A. Proceedings under Section 3 of the Housing Act, 1925.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	80
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices ;	
(a) by owners	75
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	14
(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close	—

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	110
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(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices ;

(a) by owners	..	..	..	112
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	..			6

C. Proceedings under Sections 11, 14 and 15 of the Housing, Act, 1925.

(1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders 6

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made .. . 6

(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit 4

(4) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made 5

(5) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders 7

The number of new houses erected is more by 4 than the number erected in 1927, but in addition 158 were in hand or in contemplation at the end of the year.

Distribution of the New Houses.

North Ward.	South Ward.	East Ward.	West Ward.
20	24	99	53

There is a definite improvement in the number of houses built without State Assistance. In 1927 only 12 houses were so built, but in 1928 this figure had risen to 38, a very satisfactory increase when it is remembered that 50 houses a year was approximately the normal increase a few years before the war.

Gradually each year a few more houses unfit for human habitation are demolished. The actual number is rather larger than that given above, as owners of such property themselves not infrequently demolish it without the need for a demolition order being made.

There are one or two big, very old timber-framed houses in the town that have been inspected over and over again during the past ten years and more with a view to condemnation. Two difficulties arise concerning them. In the first place, though old and worn they are not very seriously insanitary. And secondly, they afford very cheap lodging for very poor and sometimes old people who

have lived there for many years. The view is taken that provided children are not kept in these houses and the houses are kept as reasonably fit for habitation as possible, modern and up-to-date improvements will not be insisted upon.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Premises					Number	Inspections
Slaughter-houses:—						
Registered	...	...	10	)	19	1,229
Licensed	...	...	9)		
Bakehouses	...	...	29	)	30	78
Underground	...	...	1)		
Dairies and Milk Shops	...	...	...		80	187
Cowsheds	...	...	...		55	396

Milk.

Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1923.

Licences issued for sale of Graded Milk, 1928.

Certified Milk ..	..	..	1
Grade "A" (Tuberculin Tested) Milk ..			3
Grade "A" Milk ..	..	..	2
Pasteurised Milk ..	..	..	5

No licences were refused or revoked during the year.

Meat.

Carcasses Examined by the Meat Inspectors.

Cattle.	Swine.	Sheep.	Total.
1,061	2,850	2,427	6,338

Table shewing Amount of Diseased and Unfit Meat and other Foods Condemned and Destroyed, 1928.

Whole Carcasses and All Organs.

Animals.			Disease.	Weight, lbs.
1 Ox	..	..	Generalized Tuberculosis	900
1 Ox	..	..	..	750
1 Pig	..	..	..	150
1 Pig	..	..	..	126
1 Pig	..	..	..	160
1 Pig	..	..	..	116
1 Pig	..	..	..	195
1 Pig	..	..	Fevered and Dropsical	200
1 Pig	..	..	Dropsy and Decomposition	72
1 Pig	..	..	Jaundice and Dropsy	60
1 Pig	..	..	Parturition and Fevered	400
1 Pig	..	..	Died from Natural Causes	112
1 Sheep	..	..	Dropsy and Jaundice	80
1 Calf	..	..	Badly Bled	46
				3367

Parts of Carcasses and Organs.

	Disease.	Weight, lbs.
<i>Cattle—</i>		
Liver	Distomatosis	1354
Liver	Distomatosis and Cirrhosis	87
Liver	Distomatosis and Abscesses	5
Liver	Tuberculosis	130
Liver	Cirrhosis	163
Liver	Cirrhosis and Abscesses	16
Liver	Abscesses	127
Liver	Multiple Abscesses	113
Liver	Fatty Infiltration	18
Liver	Fatty Degeneration	16
Lungs	Tuberculosis	57
Lungs	Pneumonia	7
Mesenteries	Tuberculosis	64
Heads and Tongues	"	206
Heart	Tubercular Pericarditis	7
Diaphragm	Abscess	3
Briskets	Tuberculosis	52
Hindquarter }	"	332
Forequarter }	"	
		2757
<i>Pigs—</i>		
89 Heads and Tongues	Tuberculosis	1106
37 Mesenteries	"	72
5 Lungs	"	16
34 Lungs	Pneumonia	89½
2 Lungs	Congestion	6
32 Plucks	Tuberculosis	277
1 Pluck	Pericarditis, Pneumonia & Pleurisy	9
1 Pluck	"	8
1 Mesentery & Intestines	Inflammation and commencing Decomposition {	5
1 Stomach	"	2
1 Spleen	"	½
2 Kidneys	"	½
23 Livers	Cirrhosis	93½
2 Livers	Tuberculosis	7
1 Liver	Cysticercus Tenuicollis	3½
1 Liver	Degenerated Cysts	4
2 Livers	Congestion	8
1 Heart	Pericarditis	3
1 Kidney	Echinococcus Veterinorum	¼
1 Hand and Spring	Tuberculosis	6
1 Flank, Hand & Spring	"	13
1 Forequarter	"	20
1½ Loins	"	14
1 Forequarter	Extensive Pleurisy	32
Leaf Fat and Flanks	Peritonitis	15
		1801¾
<i>Sheep—</i>		
1 Forequarter	Extensive Pleurisy	23
1 Liver	Echinococcus Veterinorum	2½
		25½
<i>Miscellaneous—</i>		
Chilled Beef	Decomposition	199
Tinned Meat	"	12
Fish	"	42
		253

Total Weight of Food Condemned : 8204 ¼-lbs.=3-tons 13-cwt. 1-qr. ¼-lbs.

Other Foods.

Inspections are constantly made of all premises where foods are prepared or handled. Fish, Fruit and Vegetable Stalls are inspected, and particularly Meat Shops and Stalls.

Sale of Food and Drugs Acts.

Result of Analysis of Samples taken under the Sale of Food and Drugs Acts.

Samples.	Number of Samples.	Adulterated.	Nature of Adulteration.
New Milk	66	16	16 Fat Deficient :—
Sweets	1		(a) 30·0 per cent.
Rice	1		(a) 16·6 " }
Sugar	1		(b) 16·6 " }
Cornflour	2		(c) 6·6 " }
Greengage Jam	1		(a) 13·3 " {
Oatmeal	1		(c) 13·3 " }
White Pepper	1		(a) 13·3 " }
Coffee	2		(c) 3·3 " }
Butter	10		(c) 3·3 " }
Tapioca	1		(a) 6·6 " }
Ice Cream	5		(c) 6·6 " }
Ground Rice	1		(a) 16·6 " {
Pearl Barley	1		(b) 6·6 " {
Cream	5		(b) 6·6 " {
Stout	1		(c) 6·6 " {
Cocoa	1		(c) 10·0 " {
Carbonate of Soda	1		respectively.
Flour	2		
Tea	1		
Brandy	1		
Sausages	2		
Malt Vinegar	2		
Bread	3		
Bicarbonate of Soda	1		
Bottled Peas	1		
Strawberry Jam	1		
Luncheon Sausages	2		
Seidlitz Powder	1		(a) Original Samples.
Ale	1		(b) Course of Delivery Samples.
Cream of Tartar	1		(c) "Appeal-to-the-Cow" Samples.
Tincture of Iodine	1		
Whisky	1		
	123	16	

When adulteration is reported in a sample, the circumstances are fully considered and appropriate action taken. An unusually large number of instances were found during the year of milk deficient in cream. The above number (16) is, however, greatly reduced when second samples from the same source are subtracted. There were six original samples and ten repeat samples

taken, three in course of delivery and seven at the farms whence the milk came, so called "appeal-to-the-cow" samples.

No preservatives were found in any of the samples of milk, butter, cream, ice-cream, sausages, bread or bottled peas.

Milk and Cream Regulations, 1912-1917.

	(a) Number of Samples examined for the pre- sence of a preservative.	(b) Number in which a Pre- servative was reported to be present and per- centage of preservative found in each sample.
Milk, and Cream not sold as Preserved Cream—		
Milk	66	...
Cream	5	...
Cream sold as Preserved Cream ... ..	...	...

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the Year 1928.

(Civilian and Military Cases.)

Disease	Total Cases Notified	Total Cases in Age Groups												Cases admitted to Hospital
		Under 1 Year	1	2	3	4	5-9	10-14	15-19	20-34	35-44	45-64	65 and over	
Small Pox ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever	53	1	1	...	1	7	24	8	3	7	1	...	...	47
Diphtheria	10	...	...	...	...	...	9	1	..	...	...	...	...	9
Enteric Fever } (including Paratyphoid) }	88	...	...	...	...	1	...	2	1	12	13	43	16	5
Puerperal Fever...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...
Puerperal Pyrexia	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	...	...	...	...
Pneumonia	66	3	9	2	2	3	6	3	1	5	12	9	11	...

Other Diseases Generally Notifiable.

[illegible]

Other Diseases Notifiable Locally.

Measles	...	86	6	11	15	18	36	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Whooping Cough		96	6	14	17	23	36	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

Deaths due to an Infectious Disease, 1928.

(Civilian and Military).

Disease		Total Deaths	Age at Death											
			Under 1 Year	1	2	3	4	5-9	10-14	15-19	20-34	35-45	45-64	65 and over
Diphtheria	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteric Fever	...	28	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	3	16	7
Puerperal Fever	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	...	...
Pneumonia	...	39	3	2	...	1	2	...	...	...	1	6	15	9
Erysipelas	...	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	-	...	...
Encephalitis Lethargica	}	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis	}	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
Whooping Cough	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

The first Table above gives the incidence of the Notifiable Infectious Diseases in the Borough. The startling figure in this Table is the large number of cases of *Enteric Fever*. Of the 88 cases notified, 81 occurred in an outbreak at Severalls Mental Hospital.

It will be seen from the second Table that a certain number of cases die that have never been notified. Four cases of Enteric Fever had not been notified before Death, one case of Puerperal Fever, one of Encephalitis Lethargica, and 23 of Pneumonia.

Isolation Hospital.

Cases admitted to the Isolation Hospital, 1928.

Authority sending in cases	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Typhoid Fever	Other Diseases	Total
Colchester Borough ...	38	9	2	10	59
		<i>1</i>		<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>
Essex County Hospital	...	...	3	1	4
Mental Institutions ...	1	...	...	2	3
War Department ...	9	2	...	12	23
Walton U.D. ...	6	...	...	...	6
Brightlingsea U.D. ...	1	...	...	...	1
Frinton U.D. ...	1	...	...	...	1
Tendring R.D. ...	49	6	1	1	57
Lexden and Winstree R.D. ...	15	2	...	7	24
Melford R.D. ...	3	1	...	...	4
Essex County Council	...	...	...	57*	57
				<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>
Wivenhoe U.D. ...	2	...	...	...	2
West Mersea U.D. ...	...	...	...	1	1
Total Cases	125	20	6	91	242
Deaths	...	<i>1</i>	...	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>

Deaths from the various diseases are given in italics.

* Cases of Tuberculosis, 19 in Hospital beds and 38 in Sanatorium beds.

Scarlet Fever. Borough Cases Notified 53; Removed to Hospital 47, Nursed at Home 6; Deaths, nil; Return Cases, nil. In addition to these, 78 cases were admitted from neighbouring Urban and Rural Districts. No deaths occurred among these.

Several cases were severe. One case was transferred to the General Hospital for a mastoid operation. A soldier upon admission was found to be suffering from a deep abscess in the hand due to the kick of a horse. The condition caused some anxiety, but the man eventually left the hospital having made a good recovery from both the Abscess and the Scarlet Fever.

One nurse at the Isolation Hospital contracted Scarlet Fever ; she made a good recovery, and suffered from no complications.

The cases of Scarlet Fever were distributed in the Wards, Garrison and Institutions as follows :—

North Ward	South Ward	East Ward	West Ward	Garrison	Institutions
6	7	9	20	9	2

Diphtheria. Borough Cases Notified 10 ; Removed to Hospital 9, In the General Hospital 1 ; Deaths 1 (in General Hospital).

The case that died in the General Hospital was admitted late one night from Dedham. Tracheotomy was performed at once but the child died in a few hours.

In addition 11 cases were admitted from Districts outside Colchester. All recovered without serious complication.

The cases occurred in the Wards, etc., as follows :—

North Ward	South Ward	East Ward	West Ward	Garrison	Institutions
3	2	3	1	—	1

Cases of this disease continued throughout the year to be unusually scarce. There appears to be no other reason for this than the very careful swabbing of both cases and contacts that has been carried out in Colchester for many years past.

Enteric Fever. Borough Cases Notified 88 ; Removed to Hospital 5, In the General Hospital 1, Nursed at Home 1, In Severalls Mental Hospital 81 ; Deaths 28.

In addition one case was admitted to the Isolation Hospital from a neighbouring district.

One of the Borough cases was seriously ill, but ultimately made a good recovery, as did all the others in the Isolation Hospital.

Pneumonia. Borough Cases Notified 66 ; Removed to Hospital 1 ; Deaths 39.

The child admitted to the Isolation Hospital made a good recovery. It has already been mentioned that 23 cases that died had not been previously notified. It is therefore probable that a number of other patients who recovered were not notified, as the case-death-rate is not likely to have been over 50 per cent., as is indicated by the above figures.

The 66 notified cases were distributed in the Wards and Institutions as follows—

North	South	East	West	Institutions	Garrison
6	2	17	11	1	29

Cerebro-spinal Infectious Diseases. No cases of *Cerebro-spinal Meningitis* were brought to the notice of the Health Department.

Two cases of *Encephalitis Lethargica* were notified from the County Hospital, one was from the Borough and one from a neighbouring District. A third case was also admitted to the County Hospital, but died before notification had taken place. Only one case was admitted to the Isolation Hospital, a child from the Lexden and Winstree District, he recovered satisfactorily.

One case of *Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis* was notified and removed to the Isolation Hospital. It was a fulminating case, and the patient died within 48 hours of her admission.

Erysipelas, Malaria, Dysentery. Borough Erysipelas Cases notified 29 ; Removed to Hospital 3 ; Deaths 2.

An unusually large number of cases of *Erysipelas* were notified. There appears to be no particular reason for this. Patients suffering from this disease are not normally removed to the Isolation Hospital. The three cases so removed were (1) a private case, (2) a military case, (3) a nurse at the Isolation Hospital.

Only two deaths occurred, one a baby of two months old, the other an idiot boy at the Royal Eastern Counties Institution.

Two cases of *Malaria* were notified. Both patients had contracted the disease abroad.

No cases of *Dysentery* were brought to the notice of the Health Department.

Measles and Whooping Cough. Cases of Measles Notified 86, cases of Whooping Cough Notified 96 ; removed to Hospital—Measles 11, Whooping Cough 1 ; Deaths—Whooping Cough 1. One further case of severe Measles was admitted to Hospital from a neighbouring district.

The numbers of cases of these diseases notified are very similar to the figures for 1927. Neither disease ever became epidemic, and the second half of the year was very free from both diseases.

All children removed to the Isolation Hospital made good recoveries.

Other Diseases admitted to the Isolation Hospital consisted of—Pulmonary Tuberculosis 56, Abdominal Tuberculosis 1, Rubella 2, Mumps 2, Tonsillitis 3, Tonsillar Abscess 2, and 1 each of Erythema, Pityriasis, Debility, Chicken-pox, Cerebral Syphilis

These cases were all sent in as possibly suffering from some form of Infectious Disease. The skin rashes were suspected of being either Scarlet Fever or Measles. The Debility and Syphilis cases were thought at first to be suffering from Encephalitis Lethargica. The Tonsillitis cases were sent to Hospital as probably cases of Diphtheria.

Three of the Isolation Hospital staff contracted an Infectious Disease. All were nurses. One suffered from Scarlet Fever, one developed Erysipelas, and one had Mumps.

Tuberculosis.

Age Periods		New Cases				Deaths			
		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
2-4	..	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
5-9	...	...	...	1	2	...	...	1	...
10-14	...	2	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
15-19	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...
20-24	...	2	3	3	1	2	2	...	...
25-34	...	8	3	1	...	5	1	...	...
35-44	...	7	2	1	...	5	2	...	...
45-54	...	5	1	1	1	1	2	...	...
55-64	...	4	...	...	1	3	...	...	...
65 and upwards...	...	2	1	...	...	4	1	...	...
Totals	...	31	13	7	7	21	8	1	...

Tuberculosis. The Register of cases of this disease that now has to be kept in the Health Offices shows an increase of both Pulmonary and Non-Pulmonary cases.

Cases of Tuberculosis.

Pulmonary.		Other Forms of Tuberculosis.	
1927	1928	1927	1928
219	224	82	92

Male Pulmonary cases increased by 6, whereas Female Pulmonary cases were reduced by 1. Non-Pulmonary Male cases increased by 2, and Female Non-Pulmonary cases by 8.

The total number of Deaths during 1928 from Tuberculosis was 30 (29 Pulmonary and 1 Non-Pulmonary).

Five of these cases had not been notified previous to death, a percentage of 17 of the total deaths. Last year this percentage was 27.

The number of new cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis that were notified was 44; of Non-Pulmonary 14 new cases were notified.

Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, and Public Health Act, 1925, Sections 62 and 66.

No action was found necessary under either of the above powers.

The arrangements for supplying Diphtheria Antitoxin, Throat Swabs, specimen bottles for Sputum, Widal Blood Tubes, etc., from the Health Department for the use of General Practitioners in the district remain the same as in previous years.

Enteric Fever Outbreak, Severalls Mental Hospital.

Early in August, Dr. Turnbull, the Medical Superintendent of Severalls Mental Hospital, telephoned concerning cases of Enteric Fever that were occurring in the Hospital. The Institution was visited and the circumstances very fully discussed. Several of the staff were interviewed, and during the next fortnight investigations were carried out with regard to the milk, water and food supplies. The laundry was visited and some of the wards.

For certain reasons food seemed to be the most likely source of infection, and, after one or two articles had been suspected, the epidemic was finally traced to one of the kitchen staff, who had a little time previously suffered from an indefinite attack of illness.

It would appear, though it could not be definitely proved, that this illness had been a mild attack of Enteric Fever, and that in handling certain food he had infected it after he himself had recovered.

Meantime the whole of the staff and patients had been inoculated against Enteric Fever, and the epidemic ended abruptly.

It is most gratifying to find that none of the staff were attacked, and this indicates a most satisfactory ward and laundry routine for the handling of dirty linen and utensils. The general standard of cleanliness maintained throughout the Institution is undoubtedly of the highest.

PROPAGANDA AND HEALTH EDUCATION.

In October a special Colchester Edition of the now well-known publication "Better Health" was brought out. Copies were distributed free at the Clinics and to the Schools, and by the Health Nurses on their rounds. Both teachers and parents should find the articles in "Better Health" not only valuable information for their own use, but also of great value when teaching children simple health lessons. The publication deserves, and is worthy of, every encouragement, especially as, unlike so many similar publications, it has no particular axe to grind. Its only endeavour is the betterment of the public health.

In December an Exhibition of Films, supplied by the Health and Cleanliness Council, was held for two days in the Albert Hall. Arrangements were made for many of the School Children to attend, and the boys and girls not only enjoyed the show, but learnt at the same time some useful lessons.

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